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SCIENCE BULLETIN  
VOL. 3, NO. 4**

**NOTES ON CERTAIN BOOKS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST  
IN THE  
BLACKFORD COLLECTION OF THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM**

BY  
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NOTES ON CERTAIN BOOKS OF UNUSUAL INTEREST IN THE  
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BY E. W. GUDGER,

Editor, the Bibliography of Fishes, American Museum, New York City.

Among the books in the Blackford Collection in the library of the Brooklyn Museum there is a number of works of rather more than usual interest, and in accordance with the request of Curator George P. Engelhardt, I am pleased to submit for publication a few bibliographical comments on certain of these books. I have chosen first those books with which I am somewhat familiar, and in the second place those in which I thought that some of the readers of the Science Bulletin would find interest, and lastly I have sought for those books whose authors were men about whose lives there are points of interest. The list and comments are set under the authors arranged alphabetically.

**Balfour, F. M.** (1851-1882): "Treatise on Comparative Embryology." 2 vols., 1880. This consists to a considerable extent of Balfour's own collected embryological papers and its publication put the work at once in the front rank of text-books of embryology. Balfour's early death, at the age of 31 from a fall while climbing in the Alps while on a holiday, was one of the greatest losses to science that Great Britain has ever suffered.

**Barker, Thomas** (flourished *circa* 1651): "The Art of Angling, etc." London, 1653. This is the second edition published without Barker's name, the first edition having appeared in 1651 with his name. It was later annexed to "The Countryman's Recreation" which appeared in 1654. In 1659, it appeared as "Barker's Delight," etc. The 1651 edition was reprinted at London, 1820; and the 1653 volume at Leeds, 1817. It is an interesting old angling work.

**Bloch, Marc Elieser** (1723-1799): "Ichthyologie ou Histoire Naturelle

. . . des Poissons." Berlin, 1785. This appeared in twelve folio volumes. It is a French version of the original German edition entitled "Allgemeine Naturgeschichte der Fische" in twelve volumes. Bloch was a Jewish physician who late in life (at the age of 56) took up the study of fishes and produced one of the outstanding older works on ichthyology.

**Bonnaterre, (L'abbé) Joseph P.** (*circa* 1752-1804): "Tableau Encyclopédique . . . Ichthyologie." Paris, 1788. A compilation of considerable interest but of no particular scientific value, this volume forms one of the parts of the zoological section of the "Encyclopédie Méthodique," issued in 196 volumes, Paris, 1782-1832.

**Buckland, Frank Trevelyan** (1826-1880): "Log-book of a Fisherman and Zoologist." London, 1875; "Natural History of the British Isles." London, 1881. Full of interesting natural history data about fishes and other animals, these books are delightful reading to this day.

**Cuvier, G. L. C. F. D.**: "Pisces." London, 1834. This is volume X of the "Animal Kingdom" of the illustrious Cuvier, translated with additions by Edward Griffith and others. The complete English version of the "Animal Kingdom" filled sixteen volumes and bears date 1827-1835. It is the largest and most complete edition in English of Cuvier's great work.

**Davy, Sir Humphrey** (1778-1829): "Salmonia or Days of Fly-Fishing." London, 1829. The second edition, of which the first appeared in 1828. Written in a fresh and simple style, it is as deservedly popular among anglers as it was when first published.

**Day, Francis** (1829-1889): "Fishes of Great Britain and Ireland." Text and atlas. London and Edinburgh, 1880-1884; "British and Irish Salmonidae." London, 1887. The author was a British army surgeon in India, where he studied piscine life and wrote works on Indian fishes which are the standard to-day. On his return to England, he studied British fishes and produced the works above noted which are studied and quoted by writers on the fishes of the British Isles even at the present time.

**Donovan, Edward** (1768-1837): "Natural History of the British Fishes." 5 volumes, London, 1802-1808. 120 pls. A natural history in the

old sense, it is full of the most interesting data. These data and the handsome plates executed in the old style give this work a perennial interest and value.

**Faber, George Louis:** "The Fisheries of the Adriatic." London, 1883. The earliest and for a long time the only work dealing with the fisheries of this arm of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Francis, Francis** (1822-1886): "Fish Culture." London, 1862. Fish culture in ponds has been practised in England since the Dark Ages. All inland monasteries had fish ponds to provide fish for Fridays and fast days. During the 1800s, the art of fish culture was put on a scientific basis, and one of the pioneers in this work was Francis.

**Garlick, Theodatus:** "Treatise on the Artificial Propagation of Fish." New York and Cleveland, 1857. This work, a second edition of which was issued at Cleveland in 1880, is of interest because Garlick was one of the founders of pisciculture in the U. S.

**Herbert, David** (Editor): "Fish and Fisheries." London and Edinburgh, 1883. This work consists of a selection of the prize essays of the International Fisheries Exhibition at Edinburgh, 1882.

**Houghton, William** (1829?-1897): "British Freshwater Fishes." 2 volumes, London, 1879, folio. Written in an interesting style and beautifully illustrated with a colored figure of each fish, these volumes comprise one of the standard works to-day on the freshwater fishes of Great Britain.

**Hughes, (Rev.) Griffith:** "The Natural History of Barbados." London, 1750, 29 pls., folio. An old-style work in which the ichthyologist finds described for the first time some of the West Indian fishes.

**Jardine, (Sir) William** (1800-1874): "Naturalist's Library; Sections on Entomology, Ornithology, and Mammalia." Jardine was a Scottish naturalist who edited one of the first popular general natural histories, a work having a wide distribution and even to-day sought for by large libraries.

**Mayer, Alfred M.** (Editor): "Sport with Gun and Rod in American Woods and Waters." New York, 1883. One of the best works of the kind ever brought forth. Of especial interest to the members of the Brooklyn Museum because Prof. Mayer's son, Dr. Alfred

Goldsborough Mayer, was Director of the Museum from 1900 to 1904.

**Monro, Alexander** (*Secundus*) (1733-1817): "The Structure and Physiology of Fishes." Edinburgh and London, 1785, folio. There were three anatomists named Alexander Monro, and to designate them, they were sub-entitled *Primus*, *Secundus*, and *Tertius*—father, son, and grandson. All were comparative anatomists, but Monro *Secundus* went, more than either of the others, into the study of fishes—more indeed than perhaps any comparative anatomist who had preceded him. His book is both rare and valuable.

—: "Natural History of New York State," parts I and IV. Albany, 1842-1843. The state of New York was the first in the union to make and publish a natural history survey, and this as early as 1842. This work was admirably done and has served as a model for like surveys in other commonwealths. I am familiar only with part 4 of Vol. I, the fishes, which was done by James Ellsworth Dekay, and which every present-day student of New York fishes must have among his working tools.

**Norris, Thaddeus**: "American Fish Culture." Philadelphia, 1868. Of interest and value because Norris, with Garlick and a few others, early experimenters, laid solid foundations for the admirable and widespread fish culture of the present day in the U. S.

**Rafinesque-Schmaltz, Constantine Samuel** (1783-1842): "Ichthyologia Ohiensis." Cleveland, 1899. This is a *verbatim et literatim* reprint of the original work published at Lexington, Kentucky, in 1820. Rafinesque was born in Constantinople, lived in Sicily and later in America as professor in Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky. Of him, David Starr Jordan writes: "Brilliant, erudite, irresponsible, fantastic, he wrote on the . . . fishes of the Ohio River, with wide knowledge, keen taxonomic insight, and a hopeless disregard of the elementary principles of accuracy. Always eager for novelties, restless and credulous, his writings have been among the most difficult to interpret of any in ichthyology."

**Rau, Charles** (1826-1887): "Prehistoric Fishing in Europe and North America." Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. 25, Washington, 1885, 342 pages and 405 figures. A great outstanding monument of scholarship, it has no rival on this subject.

**Risso, Antoine** (1777-1845): "Ichthyologie de Nice." Paris, 1810. Risso was an apothecary at Nice on the Mediterranean shores of France. His valuable work was afterwards enlarged into "Histoire Naturelle . . . de l'Europe Meridionale," Paris and Strasburg, 1826.

**Rondelet, Gulielmus** (1507-1566): "Libri de Piscibus Marinis." Lugduni [Gallorum] (i.e. Lyons), 1554. A great work by one of the fathers of ichthyology, it was written in Latin and later translated into his native French, and still later served as a basis for many works by other authors. This work is one of the chief prizes of the Blackford Collection.

**Schomburgk, (Sir) Robert Hermann** (1804-1865): "The Natural History of the Fishes of [British] Guiana." 2 volumes, Edinburgh, 1841-1843. The first outstanding work on the interesting fishes of this country, illustrated with colored figures; it is the foundation on which all later researches have been based.

**Seely, Harry Govier** (1839-1909): "The Fresh Water Fishes of Europe." London, 1886. This work is one of the most useful synopses yet published of the inland fishes of Europe.

**Walton, Izaak** (1593-1683): "The Complete Angler." 1880. A reprint of the most famous book on fishing by the "Father of Angling," the *editio princeps* of which appeared at London in 1653.

**Westwood, Thomas, & Satchell, Thomas**: "Bibliotheca Piscatoria." London, 1883. Until the publication by the American Museum of Natural History in 1916-1923 of the "Bibliography of Fishes" by Bashford Dean, Charles Rochester Eastman and the writer, this was the completest bibliography of angling literature in existence. And even to-day it must be consulted by all students of the literature of fishing.

**Whymper, Frederick**: "The Fisheries of the World." London and New York, 1884. This work is an illustrated descriptive volume of the great International Fisheries Exhibition at London, 1883.

**Willoughby, Francis** (1635-1672): "Historia Piscium Libri Quatuor." Oxonii [Oxford], 1686. This tome is in part the work of Willoughby but it was completed and edited by his friend and tutor, John Ray. It was dedicated to the famous Samuel Pepys, and published partly

at the expense of the Royal Society of London of which both Willoughby and Ray were among the original fellows. This great work is an outstanding treatise on ichthyology, not merely because it is a work early in time and large in size, but particularly because in it was laid down the modern basis of the classification of fishes.

**Yarrell, William** (1784-1856): "A History of British Fishes." London. The first edition of this elegant work with 400 illustrations was published at London, 1836; a second edition in 1849, and a third in 1859. This work is the latest and best of the older works of its kind, and probably the most valuable.







# SCIENCE BULLETIN

Each volume of the Science Bulletin contains about 400 pages of printed matter or about 325 pages accompanied by 50 plates. Each number of the Science Bulletin is sold separately. The subscription price is \$3.00 per volume, payable in advance. Subscriptions should be sent in care of the Librarian of the Brooklyn Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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The Museum News, issued monthly from October to May. Volumes 1 and 2, 1905-1907. *Out of Print.* Volumes 3-8, 1907-1913. Gratis upon application to the Director, Central Museum, Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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The following publications are issued at irregular intervals, and present the original researches of the Curators and Assistants of the Museum, and work by specialists based upon the Museum Collections.

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